

FEA

Hairy vetch



REA

HAIRY VETCH

► WINTER LEGUME



▼ INFORMATION

Winter vetch is an annual plant that is a valuable forage species grown for green fodder and seeds. Since it is classified as a legume plant, its roots have the possibility of symbiosis with Rhizobium bacteria, which fix nitrogen in the air. In general, therefore, winter vetch does not require nitrogen fertilization. The only exception are mixtures with cereal plants. It prefers fertile soils (alkaline or neutral) and sunny positions with moderate humidity. It grows to a height of 1.5 meters. Hairy vetch flowering happens in third decade of June. The most common use of vetch is for animal feed, however, it is recommended to add rye grain to the food. It is also a honey plant. There is a large amount of protein in the seeds - about 30%.

▼ CULTIVATION

The cultivation of vetches does not require the use of separate fertilization. The performed treatments are similar to those used in the case of winter cereals. However, you should remember about more sparing nitrogen supply. When deciding on the variety and species of the supporting plant, it is worth taking into account its specific parameters. It should be winter-hardy, medium-high and resistant to lodging. Rye and winter vetch mixes are usually sown in the first ten days of September, just after the heat of the day. The seeds are placed 3 to 4 cm deep and the row spacing should be 12.5 cm.

▼ HARVESTING

Winter vetch is harvested when the pods are mature. The signal to start harvesting is the first bursting of their pods. The yields depend mainly on the adopted technology - with the variety offered by PHR, the yield may be about 8 dt / ha. Mixtures intended for green fodder should be mowed together with the beginning of the rye heading.